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SOURCE B.E.I.P.I., (Bulletin de l'Association d'Etudes et d'Informations Politiques Internationales).

DATA ON BULGARIAN FOOD PRICES

The Council of Ministers and the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party have decreed that retail prices of products of mass consumption would be substantially reduced on 1 September 1952. It should be noted that the abolition of rationing on 10 May 1952 produced a 35-percent rise on the average in food prices.

This "reduction" is only a faithful copy of the "reductions" effected in the USSR.

According to figures provided by the ILO, the Bulgarian workers consumed on average the following quantities and types of food per year: 211.7 kilograms of bread, 70 kilograms of flour, 19.1 kilograms of potatoes, 500 grams of butter, 70 eggs, 5.5 kilograms of lard and bacon, 9.3 kilograms of sugar, and 29.4 kilograms of meat (Annuaire statistique, 1939).

At the same time, the average daily wage of the Bulgarian worker was 78 leva 14 stotinki (Annuaire statistique du Royaume bulgare, 1940).

Between 1945 and March 1951, two thirds of the Bulgarian workers and employees received a daily salary of less than 400 leva and a monthly salary of over 10,000 leva (Otechestven Front, 28 March 1951).

Since 10 May 1952, following the monetary reform, two thirds of the Bulgarian workers and employees have received over 18 leva 8 stotinki a day and over 452 leva a month.

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The following table shows the prices per kilogram paid by Bulgarian workers for various foods (in leva):

	<u>1939</u>	<u>Jan 1951</u>	<u>May 1952</u>	<u>Sep 1952</u>
Bread	5	37.5	2.6	1.96
Flour	4.10	60	4.4	3.3
Potatoes	5.25	10	1.6	1.6
Butter	63	750	30	26.7
Eggs (per unit)	2	20	2	1.80
Meat	24	240	16	15.20
Lard and bacon	39	700	20.5	13.7
Sugar	22.90	240	9.6	9.6

The following table shows how much the Bulgarian worker spent for his food per year (in leva) [evidently obtained by multiplying the prices per kilogram in the preceding table by the number of kilograms (yearly consumption) in the first column below]:

	<u>Kg</u>	<u>1939</u>	<u>1951</u>	<u>May 1952</u>	<u>Sep 1952</u>
Bread	211.7	1,058.5	7,938.75	550.42	419.93
Flour	70	287	4,200	308	231
Potatoes	19.1	100.28	191	30.56	30.56
Butter	0.5	31.5	375	15	13.55
Eggs	70(eggs)	140	1,400	140	126
Lard and Bacon	5.5	167.25	3,850	112.75	102.85
Sugar	9.3	212.77	2,232	89.28	89.28
Meat	29.4	708.54	7,056	470.40	446.88
Total		2,705.84	27,242.75	1,716.41	1,454.86

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